

50X1-HUM

CLASSIFICATION		SECRET/CONTROL/US OFFICIALS ONLY	
COUNTRY		Germany (Soviet Zone)	
TOPIC		Airfield under Construction near Retzow	
EVALUATION		PLACE OBTAINED	
DATE OF CONTENT		DATE PREPARED 13 June 1952	
REFERENCES		PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE) one sketch on ditto	
REMARKS		50X1-HUM	

1. On 11 April 1952, [redacted] an airfield was under construction near the village of Retzow in a three-year old plantation of fir trees. The airfield was to be three kilometers long and 250 meters wide. Local residents were told that the area was to be used as pasture for sheep.
2. On 16 April, it was observed that an airfield was under construction two kilometers southeast of Retzow. At 5 p.m., four steam engines were observed pulling out 20-year old trees by means of a wire cable. Four graders driven by Soviet soldiers were leveling the area. About 200 German workmen were clearing the area. A foreman of the Waren Bau Union stated that the airfield was to measure 2 x 3 kilometers and that it was to be completed by 1 September 1952. 50X1-HUM
3. On 24 April 1952, [redacted] a Soviet tent camp consisting of 40 tents with both pointed and flat roofs in the northeastern corner of Retzow airfield. Grading work was under way at the field. [redacted] 20 machines were used by Soviet soldiers. Some of the machines were apparently bull dozers. Four steam rollers were used for wood clearing purposes. About 200 Germans cleared the field from twigs and roots. 50X1-HUM
4. On 25 April, construction was still in progress at the airfield on the road from Freienhagen to Retzow, about two kilometers southeast of Retzow. The east-west lane cleared for the construction of the airstrip crossed the road from Freienhagen to Retzow. Parts of the future airfield were already cleared. About 200 civilian laborers were employed carrying logs and burning underbrush. Six steam engines and four tractors were seen at the construction area. An area for a supply dump was cleared at the northern edge of the lane. Three wooden barracks and five tents were erected next to this area. About 50 Soviet soldiers and one sentry wearing blue epaulets were seen near the tents. Nine trucks and six caterpillars, each with a plow, were parked there. An improvised cable line branched off from the main line leading along the road Retzow-Freienhagen. Fifteen poles were laying along the improvised line.
5. A plow drawn by a caterpillar was plowing the southern edge of the lane. The driver, a soldier wearing blue epaulets, was supervised by a first lieutenant.

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6. Most of the workmen lived in vans and in the wooden barracks at the storage area. A water truck was seen near the vans. Eggebrécht's Gasthaus in Retzow was occupied by about 80 workmen and the Baubureau. It was learned from the inn keeper that the road to Freienhagen was to be blocked in the near future. The forest road leading from Layenburg to the road to Freienhagen was blocked by logs. 50X1-HUM

7. [redacted] 500 meters of the east-west airstrip had been deforested and that 300 meters had been already completely cleared. According to a construction plan of the Waren Bau Union, the airfield was to be 2,800 meters long and 500 meters wide. Approach lanes were to be cleared at either end of the airstrip. The construction budget amounted to 2,200,000 marks. *

8. [redacted] there was an airfield under construction in the vicinity of Retzow. At the time the construction work was started, the rumor was spread that the construction of an athletic field was contemplated. ** 50X1-HUM

9. On 14 May, [redacted] the field had a length of 2,500 to 3,000 meters and a width of about 600 meters. Four caterpillar tractors, 18 tractors and 2 steam engines were used for uprooting and grading. Low wooden quarters were under construction in the woods on the northern edge of the field. A telephone line extended to the field where it terminated in radio truck [redacted] tank truck [redacted] went from Retzow to the field, where [redacted] hauled telephone poles from the railroad station. *** 50X1-HUM

Comment. See Annex for sketch of airfield under construction. [redacted]

- ** Comment. The dimensions of the field, given as 500 x 2,800 meters, were confirmed by previous information. The entire field was allegedly to be covered by sod.

Comment. [redacted] work has apparently been intensified recently. 50X1-HUM

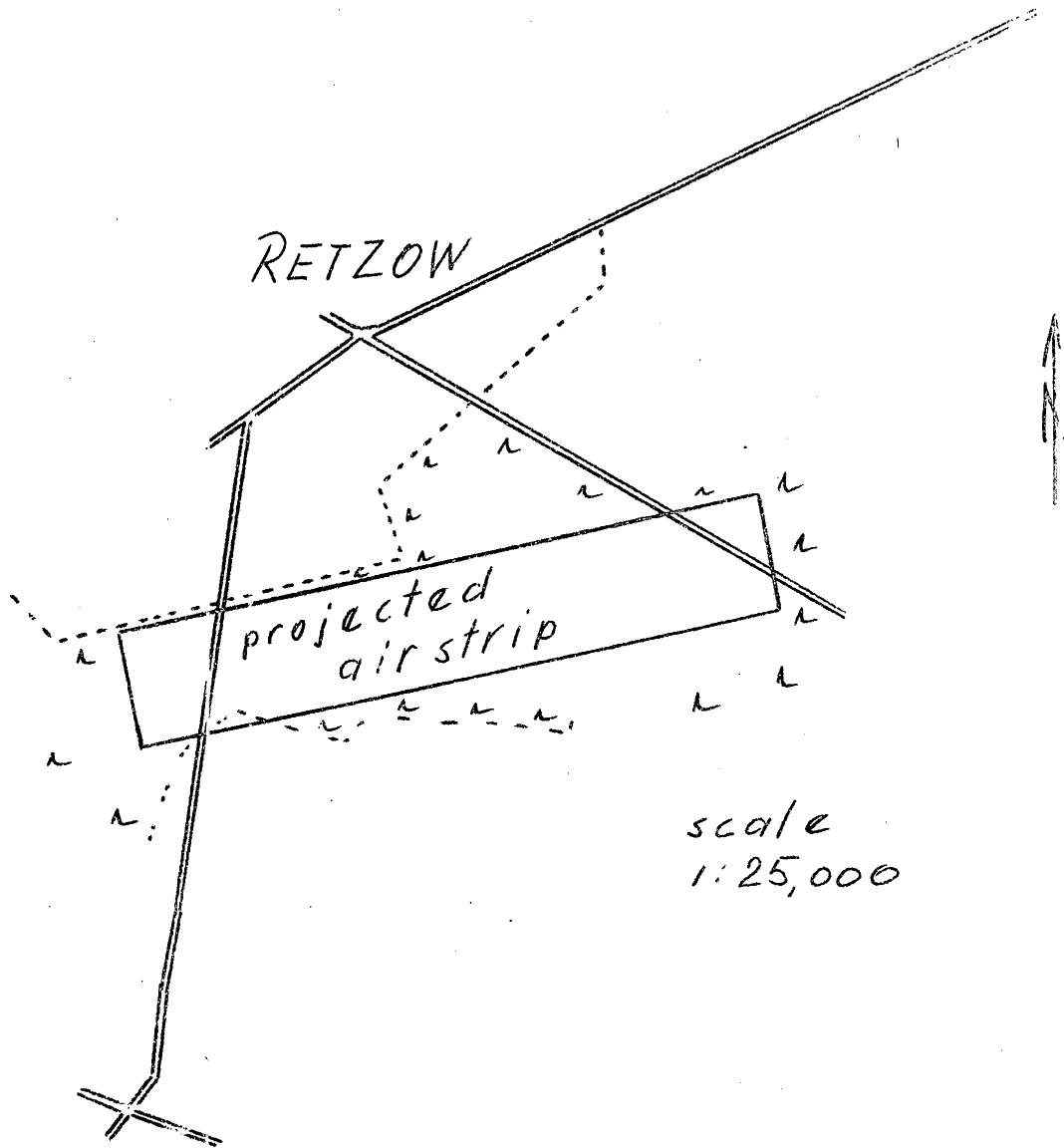
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annex

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Airfield under Construction near Retzow



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